JEFFREY S. CHIESA, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Division of Law 5th Floor 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101

FILED

APR 1 2012

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF

CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

By:

John D. Hugelmeyer Deputy Attorney General Tel. (973) 648-3453

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

ANTHONY LA RUSSO, D.C. License No. 38MC00404000

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE CHIROPRACTIC IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Chiropractic Examiners upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed, and the parties wishing to resolve this matter without further formal proceedings, hereby stipulate to the following findings of facts and conclusion of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent, Anthony La Russo, D.C., is a chiropractic physician in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

- 2. On or about June 14, 2011, Respondent entered into a Stipulation of Settlement in the case of <u>State of New Jersey v. Anthony La Russo, D.C.</u>, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex County, Docket No. ESX-L-6957-09. Respondent stipulated and agreed therein that he had submitted claims for chiropractic services to Encompass Insurance Company that contained false and/or misleading information material to those claims. (Copy attached hereto as "Exhibit A")
- 3. The parties further stipulated and agreed that Respondent neither admitted nor denied that his conduct constituted a violation of the New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 *et seq.*; but that he consented to pay a civil penalty, and agreed that any future violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 *et seq.* would constitute a subsequent offense for the purpose of exposure to civil penalties under N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.
- 4. Respondent paid \$20,000.00 in settlement of the civil action, comprised of a civil penalty in the amount of \$15,000.00, and attorney's fees in the amount of \$5,000.00.
- 5. Respondent stipulated that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-10(c), a copy of the Stipulation of Settlement would be provided to the Board and could be used against him in any civil or administrative proceeding related to a violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 et seq., including a license suspension or revocation proceeding.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The above stipulation provides grounds for the suspension of Respondent's license to practice chiropractic in New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A 45:1-21(k), in that

Respondent has been subject to a final order entered in a civil proceeding that imposed civil penalties against him under N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 *et seq.*

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 12 day of April , 2012

ORDERED AND AGREED that:

- 1. Respondent's license to practice chiropractic in the State of New Jersey be, and hereby is suspended for a period of one (1) year; however, such period of suspension shall be stayed and become a period of probation. The stayed period of suspension shall be activated upon a showing of Respondent's non-compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth herein. Respondent shall be required to appear before the Board (or a committee thereof) prior to the completion of the period of probation to demonstrate his fitness to be released therefrom.
- 2. During the period of probation, Respondent shall successfully complete and pass the following continuing education:
 - a) four (4) credit hours of record keeping; and
 - b) four (4) credit hours of physical therapeutics that shall be attained through a live didactic or synchronous distance learning activity in which the instructor(s) and learner are in direct live communication during the course.

Respondent shall secure prior approval of the Board for the specific courses proposed to satisfy this requirement. These courses are in addition to the regularly required continuing education hours.

3. Respondent shall fully attend, successfully complete and unconditionally pass the ProBE (Professional Problem Based Ethics) course offered by: The Ethics

Group, 89 Summit Avenue, Suite 185, Summit, New Jersey 07901, or the PRIME (Professional Renewal in Medicine through Ethics) course offered by the Center for Continuing Education in the Health Professions at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, 97 Paterson Street, Room 124, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903, during the period of probation and shall provide documentation thereof to the Board.

4. The Directives of the Board applicable to any licensee of the Chiropractic Board who is actively suspended, revoked, or whose surrender of licensure has been accepted are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein, whether or not they are attached hereto.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

By:		
	Albert Stabile, Jr., D.C.	
	Board President	

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.

Anthony La Russo, D.C.

I hereby consent to the form and entry of this Order.

Anthony La Russo, Esq.

Attorney at Law of the State of NJ 175 Fairfield Avenue, Unit

West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Group, 89 Summit Avenue, Suite 185, Summit, New Jersey 07901, or the PRIME (Professional Renewal in Medicine through Ethics) course offered by the Center for Continuing Education in the Health Professions at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, 97 Paterson Street, Room 124, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903, during the period of probation and shall provide documentation thereof to the Board.

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> NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

Board President

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Anthony La Russo, D.C.

I hereby consent to the form and entry of this Order.

Attorney at Law of the State of NJ 175 Fairfield Avenue, Unit 10

West Caldwell, NJ 07006

EXHIBIT A

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION
ESSEX VICINAGE

JUN 2 0 2011

FINANCE DIVISION
RECEIVED/FILED #26

PAULA T. DOW ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Attorney for Plaintiff R. J. Hughes Justice Complex P. O. Box 117 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

By: Kathleen F. Doran
Deputy Attorney General
(609) 777-3735

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION - ESSEX COUNTY DOCKET NO.: ESX-L-6957-09

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,)		
Plaintiff,)	Civil Action	
v .)	STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT	
ANTHONY LARUSSO, D.C.,)	BFD# 08-20705-02	
Defendant.	}		

The claim in this action having been settled and resolved by the parties, Plaintiff, State of New Jersey and Defendant, Anthony LaRusso, D.C.:

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by Defendant, Anthony LaRusso, D.C., that he submitted claims for chiropractic services to Encompass Insurance Company that contained false and/or misleading information material to the claims.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that Defendant neither admits nor denies that such conduct constitutes a violation

of the New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 et seq., but consents to payment of a civil penalty and agrees that any future violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 et seq., shall constitute a subsequent offense for the purpose of exposure to civil penalties under N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5; and

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that the defendant, Anthony LaRusso, D.C., shall pay \$20,000.00 in settlement of the above referenced action (hereinafter "Settlement Amount"). The Settlement Amount shall be comprised of a civil penalty in the amount of \$15,000.00 and attorney's fees in the amount of \$5,000.00, to be satisfied upon the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Upon execution of this Stipulation of Settlement on or before June 15, 2011, the Defendant shall remit to the attorney for the State a payment in the amount of \$20,000.00, made payable to the Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance in a Certified Check or Money Order. The settlement payment shall be paid in full at the time of settlement. The above BFD File Number 08-20705-02 shall be entered on all payments and any other communications.
- 2. If Defendant fails to make any scheduled payment within ten (10) days of its due date, Plaintiff can, without further notice to Defendant, commence collection proceedings or undertake such other judicial process as may be appropriate; and
 - 3. If Defendant fails to make any scheduled payment

within ten (10) days of its due date, Plaintiff can, without further notice to Defendant, accelerate payment declaring any unpaid balance to be immediately due and owing.

N.J.S.A. 17:33A-10(c), a copy of this Stipulation of Settlement shall be provided to the appropriate licensing authority. This Stipulation of Settlement may be used against the defendant in any civil or administrative proceeding related to a violation of N.J.S.A.17:33A-1, et seq., including a license suspension or revocation proceeding; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that Defendant is obligated to pay the Department of Banking & Insurance its surcharge of \$750.00 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.1, which is separate and apart from the Settlement Amount; which shall be paid upon execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, and made payable to the Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance in a Certified Check or Money Order;

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that the penalties of this Stipulation of Settlement are imposed pursuant to the police powers of the State of New Jersey for the enforcement of the law and protection of the public health, safety and welfare, and are not intended to constitute debts which may be limited or discharged in a bankruptcy proceeding.

PAULA T. DOW ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: 0/5

Kathleen F. Doran Deputy Attorney General

Dated:

Anthony LaRusso, D.C. Defendant

Attorney for Defendant